/462 cont./

Fire

372 The Guaika /Waica/ use the system of simple rotation to make fire. This consists of a piece of soft wood, flattened on one side and rounded on the other, about four centimeters wide at one end, and whose tapering shape ends in a blunt point at the other end. With the tooth of a large rodent they make a circular cut in it near its broader end, and in this is inserted a slender stick (from 30 to 40 centimeters /sic/ in diameter at its base). This stick is held between the palms of the hands and given a rotating movement until a spark burns in the wood dust which has been formed by the rotation of the stick in the hole made in the board. (See Fig. 6.)

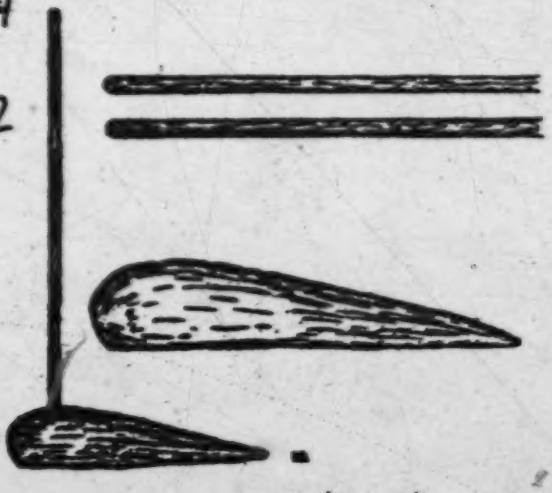
[237] [412]

[824] /463/ The tapered piece of soft wood is of cacao, in which several successive holes can be made, and each hole can be used several times for lighting a fire.

In general there is someone in the settlement who has a fire lighted, so that when some native needs fire he obtains it there. In order to carry fire a short distance, two or three lighted sticks are tied together, forming a fagot. When they travel at night, they carry lighted torches to protect themselves against animals

373 416 484

372



/Fig. 6/

/463 cont./

373 416 484 as well as to light the path. Torches of gum and resin are also used sometimes on the paths during the night, but the common type of torch is the fagot of tied pieces of wood. A group which travels at night (as occurs when they are returning after nightfall from the work of fishing) may carry only one torch. Then they stop from time to time to arrange the joined sticks and to revive the fire, keeping it from going out.

373 374 The wood fire is the principal source of light and heat in the settlements. The fires are kept lighted during the entire night, both to produce warmth and for protection against predatory animals and the spirits of human beings which have returned.

372 There do not seem to be any beliefs or ceremonies related to the production and maintenance of fire.

Weapons

411 The principal weapon of the Guaica /Waica/ is the bow and arrow. They also use macanas.

[824] [283] The bow is made of palm wood, generally of "pijiguao," with a strong string made of threads of bark. This string has three or more threads of twisted bark, which give it great strength.

[249] [237] The shafts of their arrows are made of the festooned part of a certain wild cane, which they cultivate in their "conucos." They feather them with the points of wing feathers of wild turkeys.

Arrow points vary according to the type of game which is to be the target. The wide bamboo point is used /464/ principally against large land animals; the bone one for shooting large and medium-sized birds, and the poisoned points principally for monkeys. Any of these points might be used against man in the event of war. Against small birds they shoot the shaft, first removing the point, or they use a point ramified at the end, made out of a small branch quickly broken off some nearby plant. The accompanying Fig. 7 /see p. 35/ shows the different types of arrow points of the Guaika. /Fig. 7 appears here./